

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: October Meeting of the ICRC

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1. The Committee met at 10:00 a.m. on 3 October in the Executive Office Building. [redacted] represented the NSC staff. Various other members were represented by an alternate or substitute. Mr. William Brown, currently of the AEC and soon to become the Executive Director of ICRC, was present and took part in the meeting.

2. The minutes were approved with minor changes.

3. Ambassador Blake, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Dr. Rhoads' memorandum of 30 May to study the use of classification and exemption guidelines, was present and presented his report. He stressed as the principal recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group the appointment of a new working group to work up guidelines for classification and exemption in scientific and technical areas. He thought that what he referred to as the working of government is not readily susceptible to guidelines but that scientific and technical matters are. In particular he noted that technical matters become obsolete and the need for continuing classification thereby disappears. It was indicated that AEC and DOD have numerous technical guidelines in existence. Both departments emphasized their need to use these devices in order to continue to severely restrict the numbers of persons authorized to classify at TOP SECRET. The point was made that restricting the number of TOP SECRET classifiers was one of the objectives of the Executive Order. No member of the Committee showed any enthusiasm for Blake's proposal and indeed when Chairman Rhoads first asked for a vote, initially he got no vote, either pro or con. Ultimately the Committee agreed to take no action at this time. The Committee staff will explore the matter further and DOD will attempt to ascertain the extent to which the use of guides results in exempting documents and materials.

4. In discussing his report, Blake indicated he had also discussed it with his good friend, Congressman Moorhead. Moorhead liked the idea of guidelines in scientific areas. Chairman Rhoads gently indicated he was sure the Administration wanted to manage the declassification program within the Executive Branch.

5. The problem of what to do about the Bernstein and Stueck appeals was raised. The Committee heretofore had voted to declassify the documents, in both instances subject to the NSC staff member receiving the approval of the head of the NSC staff, namely, Dr. Kissinger. These have been presented to him some time ago and obviously he has not been able to deal with them. [] [] was quite hopeful that he will be able to work this out. With respect to the documents requested by Bernstein, it was voted to declassify them and Chairman Rhoads announced that a letter to that effect would be sent to Bernstein.

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Associate General Counsel